

The Stanly *Learn and Earn* school opened at Stanly Community College in Albemarle in August 2006 with 45 students. Of those 45 students, four-fifths are first generation college-going (neither parent graduated from college), three-quarters are economically disadvantaged, and more than one-third scored below grade level in math on the 8th grade End-of-Grade test. In addition, many of the students had severe attendance problems in middle school.

Even with this academic profile, the students have made tremendous progress over the course of the year. One-third of the students had perfect attendance for the year and the school's overall attendance rate is 97 percent. In just one semester, the school cut in half the portion of students who were below grade level in math. Eighty percent of the students scored at or above grade level on the Algebra I End-of-Course test.

For more information on the Stanly Early College High School, visit their web site at www.echs.scs.k12.nc.us or contact Principal John Balls at (704) 991-0128. For more information on the school's Magna Award, visit the American School Board Journal web site at: www.asbj.com/magna/winners2007/stanly.pdf.

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